

5 June 1981
MSK-1009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Seoul Bureau--May 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. The first anniversary of the bloody May 1980 riots in Kwangju produced a flood of rhetoric from North Korea, but the ROK Government managed to keep the situation in the South reasonably under control. There were scattered commemorative protest demonstrations at several South Korean universities during the latter half of the month, with small numbers of students arrested, but so far there have been no major outbreaks of violence. The situation in the North has been highlighted by the gradual emergence of Kim Il-song's son, Kim Chong-il, into the limelight, including his first reported public appearance since the North Korean party congress last October.
2. Receipts of DPRK TV tapes improved during the month and are now back to what had become more or less the norm. Tapes are sent to the suppliers on Tuesdays and Fridays, and recorded tapes come back the same days, though on a slightly irregular basis.
3. The opening of the Mongolian party congress on 26 May generated a large volume of Russian material from MONTSAME, including an 11,000-word version of the main report presented by party First Secretary Tsedenbal. Extel modifications received from Okinawa Bureau have made it easier for our teletypists to print the Russian casts, but they are also still being fed from Okinawa as a backstop to our local printouts.

B. Lateral Services/Special Services

A memo was received from the Chief, NEA/LS/OTE expressing "sincere appreciation" for the "excellent" videotapes of South Korean TV programs that had been supplied by the Bureau last December in response to an OTE request. The tapes are being incorporated into OTE's full-time Korean classes.

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C. Technical

The local contractor that will be working on the Bureau's four beverage antennas at Pyongtaek submitted an estimate of just under \$1,000 to install new transformers at both ends of the antennas. Hqs. concurred in the signing of a contract with the company, which will install the transformers as soon as they are received from the Stateside manufacturer, which is expected to be 2-3 months from now.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. New teletypist [] entered on duty on 4 May to replace the teletypist who had been lost to the Embassy's Consular Section in January. [] who worked for Korean International Telecommunications (KIT), heard about the Bureau's vacancy via the grapevine and sent a TELEX message expressing interest in the job. STAT
2. Teletype Supervisor [] resigned effective 30 May to move to Philadelphia, where several of his close relatives live. To commemorate his 17 years of U.S. Government service --with the Embassy and FBIS--he was presented with a plaque and farewell gift at an office party. Another KIT employee is being processed as a replacement for [] STAT
3. A former employee of the Peace Corps in Taejon has been selected to fill the Bureau's vacant Korean monitor position. His paperwork is presently being processed, and his EOD will fill the Korean Unit T/O of eight.
4. The Embassy has basically completed its wage survey of local companies, and the paperwork is to be handcarried back to Washington in early June by an officer going on Home Leave. The Embassy is hoping to have a wage scale increase implemented by 15 July and expects a 19-20 percent increase on average.

B. Building and Grounds

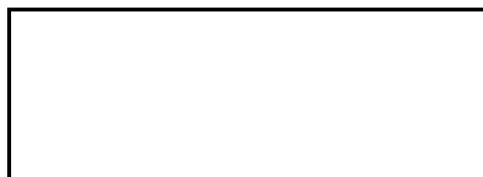
Plans to build a new Chancery and residential housing are moving forward based on a survey completed by a team from Washington which visited last fall. The total project, which will involve the construction of a new Chancery on the site of the present ICA building as well as expanded housing on Compounds I and II, will cost an estimated \$67 million, \$33 million of it for the new Chancery. Under present plans, the new Chancery will not be built for 4-5 years, after the completion of an extensive design/development phase.

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III. VISITS

[REDACTED] FLAMRIC/OIC, Fort Ord, California visited the Bureau 7 May to view North Korean TV tapes and discuss FBIS services.

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Chief, Seoul Bureau, FBIS

Attachments:

Production Reports

cc: Chief, [REDACTED]
Chief, Okinawa Bureau

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